

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DEAE-00 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02

TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 /073 W

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O 230007Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 954

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9135

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR CO

SUBJ: LOPEZ STATE VISIT: POSSIBLE THREAT TO LOPEZ LIFE

1. GEN MATAALLANA CHIEF OF THE DEPARTAMENTO ADMINISTRATIVO DE SEGURIDAD (DAS) CALLED ON CHARGE THIS EVENING TO REPORT THAT COLOMBIAN MIL ATTACHE IN MADRID, COL OSCAR BOTERO RESTREPO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A COLOMBIAN NATIONAL (LAST NAME GARCIA, FIRST NAME DARIO OR MARIO) WHO HAS KNOWN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND THAT GARCIA HAD INFORMED HIM OF A POSSIBLE PLOT BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO HARM PRES LOPEZ. ACCORDING TO GARCIA THESE DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAD BEEN ANGERED BY LOPEZ'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WHICH IN SOME WAY DISRUPTED A LARGE NARCOTICS DEAL THAT WAS ABOUT TO BE ARRANGED IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA. TRAFFICKERS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT RAMIFICATIONS OF POSSIBLE US-GOC DISCUSSIONS ON NARCOTICS DURING LOPEZ VISIT.

2. INFO RECEIVED BY GEN MATAALLANA LEFT IT UNCLEAR WHETHER GARCIA BELIEVED DRUG TRAFFICKERS WERE PLANNING TO HARM LOPEZ IN COLOMBIA OR DURING HIS TRIP TO THE US. MATAALLANA SAID HE HAD BEEN ENDEAVORING ALL DAY TO CONTACT COL BOTERO IN MADRID BY TELEPHONE FOR ANY FURTHER INFO HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FROM GARCIA BUT HE HAS
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BEEN UNABLE TO GET THROUGH TO HIM. GEN MATAALLANA HAS ASKED US

TO REQUEST THAT EMB MADRID ATTEMPT TO CONTACT COL BOTERO IMMEDIATELY
AND PASS ON TO THIS EMB AND TO THE DEP ANY FURTHER INFO HE IS
ABLE TO OBTAIN ABOUT THE ALLEGED PLOT TOGETHER WITH BOTERO'S
ASSESSMENT OF GARCIA'S RELIABILITY.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMB'S ACTING ON THIS REQUEST ASAP.
PRES LOPEZ IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART BOGOTA FOR US MORNING OF SEP 24.

4. FOR DEPT: GEN MATALLANA HAS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT
THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE SECURITY MEASURES FOR PRES LOPEZ WHILE
HE IS IN FT LAUDERDALE AND IN NEW YORK. WE HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT
THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN LAID ON. DREXLER

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